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INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Izenberg DATE 10/5/81
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E. BURSE EXEMPTIONS ☐
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1. INAUGURAL SESSION CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY TOOK PLACE 9:A.M. SEPTEMBER 27 ATTENDED BY DIRECTORATE, PEOPLES ARMY COUNCIL, DIPLOMATIC CORPS, LOCAL AND FOREIGN PRESS.

2. WELCOMING ADDRESS DELIVERED BY PHUOC LONG DEPUTY, NGUYEN BA LUONG, DEAN AND PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT OF ASSEMBLY. LUONG REVIEWED HISTORY OF POLITICAL TURMOIL IN VIET NAM SINCE NOVEMBER 1963, DESCRIBED SUBSEQUENT-

PAGE 2 RUMSEM 6992 UNCLAS
GOVERNMENTS AS HAVING "NO LEGAL BASIS" ALTHOUGH THEY PARTICIPATED IN STRUGGLE AGAINST COMMUNISM, AND CALLED FOR CONSTITUTION WHICH WOULD "ENGENDER STRONG GOVERNMENT WITH ADEQUATE PRESTIGE AND CAPABILITY TO DEFEAT COMMUNISIS, RESTORE ORDER AND PEACE AND...TRANSFORM VIET NAM INTO PROSPEROUS AND POWERFUL COUNTRY." LUONG EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS OF ASSEMBLY TO RECEIVE CONSTRUCTIVE IDEAS FROM GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE AT THE SAME TIME STATING, "WE ARE DETERMINED TO WITHSTAND ALL PRESSURES WHICH SEEK TO CONTROL US OR COMPEL US TO BETRAY THE NATIONAL INTEREST."

3. PRIME MINISTER KY THEN GAVE BRIEF CONGRATULATORY SPEECH CALLING CA ELECTION "MOST EQUITABLE AND IMPARTIAL EVER HELD IN VIET NAM." HE URGED THAT

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ASSEMBLY DRAFT CONSTITUTION WHICH MEETS NEEDS OF PEOPLE AND AT SAME TIME SUITABLE TO PRESENT SITUATION. HE REVIEWED PROGRESS OF GVN IN ACHIEVING THREE GOALS OF DEFEATING COMMUNISM. IMPROVING ECONOMY AND BUILDING DEMOCRACY. KY CONCLUDED REMARKS BY WISHING DEPUTIES EVERY SUCCESS IN LAUNCHING "ERA OF DEMOCRACY AND PROGRESS."

PAGE 3 RUMSEM 6992 UNCLAS

4. FINAL SPEECH OF INAUGURAL SESSION GIVEN BY CHIEF OF STATE THIEU. HE PRAISED DEPUTIES FOR HAVING ELICITED CONFIDENCE OF PEOPLE IN RECENT ELECTION AND EXPRESSED CERTAINTY THAT PEOPLE WILL NOW BE WATCHING ASSEMBLY SESSIONS IN SAIGON WITH GREAT SATISFACTION AND CONFIDENCE. THIEU CITED 80 PERCENT VOTER TURNOUT AS EVIDENCE THAT PEOPLE WANT "UNIFIED AND PROSPEROUS COUNTRY." ALSO PROOF THAT PEOPLE WANT DEMOCRACY AND DEFEAT OF COMMUNISTS. HE ASKED FOR CONSTITUTION WHICH WILL BE ACCEPTED BY THE PEOPLE AND YET RESULTS IN EFFICIENT REGIME WITH PRESTIGE HERE AND ABROAD. HE SAID THAT EVOLUTION TOWARDS DEMOCRACY IN VIET NAM WAS ONLY WAY TO DEFEAT COMMUNISTS AND WOULD HEARTEN ALLIES ASSISTING IN ANTI-COMMUNIST STRUGGLE. TASK OF ASSEMBLY IN COMING WEEKS WOULD BE TO HELP ACHIEVE POLITICAL STABILITY AND PEOPLE HAVE CHOSEN MOST DESERVING REPRESENTATIVES TO ACCOMPLISH THIS TASK.

5. THIEU CONCLUDED REMARKS BY STATING THAT COMMUNISTS DREAD THE RESULTS OF THE WORK WHICH IS ABOUT TO BEGIN

PAGE 4 RUMSEM 6992 UNCLAS

IN ASSEMBLY. HE PROMISED THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD COOPERATE WITH ASSEMBLY IN EVERY WAY AND PLANNED TO SUBMIT TO IT CONSTRUCTIVE IDEAS AND MAKE AVAILABLE INFORMATION ABOUT PRESENT SITUATION TO ASSIST BODY IN ITS WORK OF DRAFTING CONSTITUTION CONSISTENT WITH RIGHTS OF PEOPLE.

6. DETAILED SUMMARY SPEECHES BEING FILED AS FBIS S270300.

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NOTE: PASSED S/S-O, WHITE HOUSE, DOD, CIA, USIA, NSA AT 9:25 AM, 9/27/66/

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